

**April 16, 2010**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the Norwich Fire Department will receive \$85,159 in funding for operations and safety enhancements under the 2009 federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program.

The Norwich Fire Department will use this funding to purchase communications equipment to match Chenango County's upgraded equipment.

"I am pleased that local fire departments are getting the resources they need to fight fires and protect the members of their communities," **said Arcuri, who has organized several fire grant writing workshops with the Department of Homeland Security for local fire departments over the last three years.**

"The purchase of additional rescue vehicles and the ability to make improvements to equipment and facilities for our rescue workers is critical. Providing the funding necessary to allow our local fire fighters to be best equipped to do their job makes them safer and contributes greatly to the overall safety of our community."

"This money is going towards all of our communication equipment needs," **said Norwich Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo**

. "As the county upgrades their system, we needed to as well. With this grant we can do so, and at no cost to the local taxpayer. This is the first time we have had success with an AFG grant and that has a lot to do with attending Congressman Arcuri's Fire Grant Workshop."

Today's announcement marks the eleventh round of announcements for 2009 AFG funding. To date, a total of 23 fire departments in Arcuri's district have been awarded nearly \$1.6 million in funding through the 2009 AFG program.

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) AFG program awards grants in two areas. The first is the Operations and Safety Program Area in which funding is used for training, equipment, wellness and fitness and health and safety modifications to the facilities. The second is the Vehicle Acquisition Program Area would allow departments to purchase various types of rescue

vehicles including ambulances, hazardous materials clean up vehicles, tankers and pumper trucks. DHS will continue to make funding announcements in the coming weeks.

Last week, Arcuri hosted a Fire Grant Workshop in Cortland, NY, lead by FEMA Regional Fire Grant Specialist David Gronsbell, to help emergency first responders in across Upstate New York apply for grants through the AFG Program. Since taking office in 2007, Arcuri has held 5 Fire Grant Workshops and assisted more than 90 local fire departments in securing approximately \$6.6 million in funding through the AFG program.

Local fire departments interested in applying for AFG program grants or attend the Fire Grants Workshop are encouraged to call Arcuri's Utica, NY office at 315-793-8146.

Below is a list of other fire departments that have also received AFG funding in 2009:

- Springport Fire District - Operations and Safety -- \$33,060
- Rome Fire Department - Operations and Safety -- \$221,670
- Varick Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. - Operations and Safety -- \$32,182
- Port Dickinson Fire Department - Operations and Safety -- \$69,493
- Willowvale Fire Department - Operations and Safety -- \$35,255
- Virgil Fire Department - Operations and Safety -- \$38,950
- City of Oneonta Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$7,125

- New Hope Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$31,350
- Scipio Volunteer Fire Company - Vehicle Acquisition -- \$190,000
- Verona Fire Department - Operations and Safety -- \$48,521
- Moravia Joint Fire District - Operations and Safety -- \$21,613
- Unadilla Forks Fire Department - Operations and Safety -- \$82,935
- Candor Fire District - Operations and Safety - \$45,315
- East Maine Fire Company - Operations and Safety - \$84,788
- City of Cortland Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$41,716
- Morris Fire Department - Vehicle Acquisition - \$261,250
- Harpursville Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$42,386
- Van Hornesville Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$35,663
- Borden Hose Company - Operations and Safety - \$47,975
- Whitesboro Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$77,520
- Bridgewater Fire Company - Operations and Safety - \$42,047
- Ilion Fire Department - Operations and Safety - \$40,375

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